

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 3527

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TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.) AU

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO VIENNA: KREISKY VIEWS ON EUROCOMM-
UNISM

FOR: EUR: WARREN ZIMMERMANN

REF: (A) STATE 098382, (B) VIENNA 1751

1. CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S MOST RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS ON EUROCOM-
MUNISM CONTINUE IN SAME VEIN AS REPORTED REFTEL B. KREISKY'S
APPROACH REMAINS MIXTURE OF CONTEMPT FOR ALL TOTALITARIAN
POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING ORTHODOX COMMUNIST ONES, AND

PERSONAL FASCINATION WITH POSSIBILITY OF EUROCOMMUNIST PARTIES
OF WEST (PARTICULARLY THOSE IN ITALY AND FRANCE) DEVELOPING
INTO SOME HYBRID POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. ACCORDING TO
KREISKY, BEST TACTIC FOR WEST IS TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONAL
STANCE WHILE CONTINUING TO KEEP UP PRESSURE PUBLICLY ON
EUROCOMMUNISM PARTIES TO BRING THEIR PRACTICES IN LINE WITH
THEIR PUBLIC PROMISES. KREISKY FEELS THAT EUROCOMMUNIST
PARTIES ARE NOW CAUGHT UP IN SERIES OF DILEMMAS INVOLVING BOTH
THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL PRACTICES AND POLICY
DEVELOPMENT AND THAT IF THEY IN FACT SURVIVE "TEST OF
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DEMOCRATIZATION" IN NEXT FEW YEARS THEY WILL HAVE LOST
THEIR FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTER AS COMMUNIST PARTIES, SINCE
ORTHODOX ELEMENTS COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN PARTY.
IF THEY PERSIST, ON OTHER HAND, IN MAINTAINING PARTY
CENTRALISM AS MECHANISM OF CONTROL WHILE ARTICULATING
POLITICAL PLURALISM, FACTIONS WILL INVARIABLY DEVELOP
WITHIN RESPECTIVE PARTIES, RESULTING EVENTUALLY INTO

SUNDERING OF PARTIES INTO WARRING ELEMENTS.

2. KREISKY FEELS THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS IN FRANCE AND ITALY IS MATTER FOR EACH SOCIALIST PARTY TO DECIDE, ACCORDING TO PRECEPT OF SOCIALIT INTERNATIONAL. AT HOME, HOWEVER, KREISKY REMAINS CLEARLY OPPOSES TO COOPERATION IN ANY FORM WITH AUSTRIA'S COMMUNIST PARTY, A STANCE WHICH GENERATES ADVERSE COMMENTARY FROM EE AREA. KREISKY HAS INDICATED THAT HE

AGREES WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES OF EASTERNEUROPE THAT PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE DOES NOT MEAN IDEOLOGICAL COEXISTENCE, BUT HE ADDS THAT "RULES OF IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE" WHICH ALLOW CP'S IN WEST TO COMMENT ON CAPITALISM SHOULD APPLY EQUALLY TO NON-COMMUNIST PARTIES AND GOVERNMENTS IN WEST COMMENTING ON INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN EE REGION. MEEHAN

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